



Olympic award winners: it is a great inspiration for us

On the eve of the new year IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch handed in Olympic distinctions in Moscow to Soviet gymnasts Yelena Mukhlina and Lyudmila Turishcheva and figure skater Irina Rodnina for their contribution to the Olympic movement and dedication to the lofty sporting ideals.

How important is this occasion for you? An MN correspondent asked the award winners.

In presenting me with the award, Juan Antonio Samaranch wished me a speedy recovery and said he was hopeful that despite my heavy injury I would remain in the Olympic movement, said Yelena Mukhlina. Sport has taught me not just to vie with opponents but with myself too, and I believe I will succeed in overcoming my illness in this I am given much help from my friends in the national training institute. The numerous letters I receive from Soviet and foreign gymnastics fans are also

a great boost. I got a lot of letters from the United States, West Germany and Britain. My immediate plans are to prepare for my third-year exams. The Sports Committee and our Gymnastics Federation are helping me to learn to referee international contests, for which I need a good command of French. I keep a close watch on advances in gymnastics, watch many sports films, and am of the opinion that gymnastics is making good progress in the new four-year Olympic cycle. I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all sports lovers a happy New Year.

At present the Olympic movement is going through an interesting phase of its development and the presentation of IOC awards in 1978 world champion Yelena Mukhlina, my teammate, and myself, is a great challenge for both of us, said Olympic winner Lyudmila Turishcheva. We are planning a lot of things for the new year. I will have an exciting job to

do as member of the technical committee of the International Gymnastics Federation. I expect new faces to emerge in 1983, and that programmes will become still more complex and be of higher artistic merit.

I am happy that this prize award is the first such one yet in figure skating history, said triple Olympic winner Irina Rodnina. Our sport is among the most popular, she continued, and I am sure that its exponents will make a signal contribution to the advancement of the Olympic movement.

In presenting me with the award, Juan Antonio Samaranch addressed me regretfully my having quit competitive sport; but I now have charges of my own, whom I will try to cultivate in the spirit of dedication to the Olympic ideals.

It appears that coaching is by far the harder job than competing myself, Rodnina noted.

TOPS OF SPORTS



Paolo Rossi was voted sportsman of the year in a TASS survey.

Italian football star Paolo Rossi has been voted the sportsman of the year in a TASS survey of 32 world and national news agencies. World swimming champion and record holder Vladimir Salnikov was placed second, and the GDR's running world record holder and European champion Marita Koch and world record holder and European winning decathlete Daley Thompson of Britain shared third-fourth position. The last three won titles at the Moscow Games.

World champion and Juventus striker Paolo Rossi got the "Gold Boot" as the Spanish World Cup top scorer with six goals; he also won the "Gold Ball" presented to the European player of the year.

Salnikov and Koch were voted "top" in previous TASS polls. Altogether 34 sportsmen were named in ten sports from 15 countries.

SPORTSMEN OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Edmonton Oilers centre-man Wayne Gretzky was voted Canada's sportsman of the year and awarded a prize for spectacular fulfilment in sport — a coveted distinction for both

amateurs and professionals in Canada. Gretzky is the sixth ice-hockey player yet to have got the award.

Nunez, 24, a clear winner, is one of the most celebrated weightlifters of today. He is a Moscow Olympic winner and has set three world records in the under-60 kg division last year, winning awards from the world championship in Yugoslavia, the world cup, and the top award at the 14th Central American and Caribbean Games.

World chess titlist Anatoly Karpov has again won the chess Oscar prize offered by the "Zagreb Vjesnik" newspaper to the player of the year.

OSCAR FOR ANATOLY KARPOV

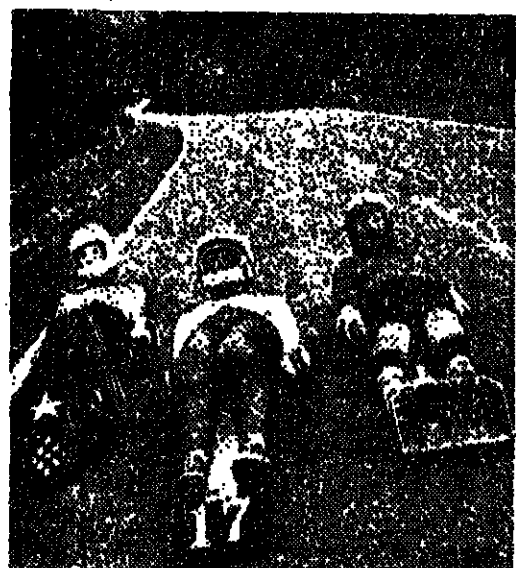
The other people nominated in the newspaper's survey are Garry Kasparov, Ljubomir Ljubojević, Mikhail Tal, Alexander Beliavsky, and Vasily Smyslov. Zoltán Ribli, Eugene Torre and Boris Spassky shared tenth position.

Sports fashion-83

Tennis coaches and players assert that the shoes displayed at this year's Munich sports gear show will be all the rage in 1983. What makes them so popular is that their sole contains air, lessening muscle and joint tension, and its elasticity guarantees long use.

The skateboard is now facing a lot of competition from roller-boards now in vogue in the USA.

which Hickey, an American, used to reach 118 kph. Quite possibly this new sport will win a broad following in Europe in the new year.



OF INTEREST

SPORTSMEN OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Austria's sports writers have voted figure skating European champion and world bronze medalist Claudia Kiselica-Binder and ski jump world champion Armin Kogler the country's athletes of the last year. Significantly, the same pair were named top in the 1981 survey.

Basketball star Drazen Petrovic, 23, who for six years now has been on the national lineup and was selected the best scorer

at the world championship in Columbia, has been voted the Yugoslav sportsman of the year.

Cuban weightlifter Daniel Nunez was voted the Latin American and Caribbean sportsman of the year in an annual end-of-the-year survey run by Prensa Latina which involved sports writers from 40 news agencies, radio, TV and sports publications in the region as well as in Europe and Africa.

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SUBBOTNIK FOR US



As we reported earlier, December 18, 1982 was a day of the nation-wide Communist Subbotnik (a day of voluntary unpaid work), marking the 60th anniversary of the USSR. Proceeds from the industrial production of the Subbotnik have been estimated at over 845 million rubles. The history of our Subbotnik goes back to April 1919, when 15 Moscow railwaymen volunteered to spend a Saturday (hence the Russian word "subbotnik") repairing three locomotives. About 148 million people attended the last Subbotnik. The proceeds will primarily go towards various social needs; in past years they were used, for instance, to build the national oncological research centre and the national cardiological centre. Proceeds from the latest Subbotnik will be used to build hospitals, schools, creches and kindergartens.

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NEW MAJOR PEACE INITIATIVE BY THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY

To conclude a treaty on the mutual non-use of military force and on the maintenance of relations of peace between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO member-countries open to all states. Such was the proposal put forward at

the Prague meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the member-countries of the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance.

The Soviet delegation, led by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Yuri Andropov, included Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikolai Tikhonov, Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrei Gromyko, Minister of Defence Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitry Ustinov, and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Konstantin Rusakov. Taking part in the

meeting were a Bulgarian delegation, led by Todor Zhivkov; a Hungarian delegation, led by János Kádár; a GDR delegation, led by Erich Honecker; a Polish delegation, led by Wojciech Jaruzelski; a Romanian delegation, led by Nicolae Ceausescu; and a Czechoslovak delegation, led by Gustav Husak.

The participants in the meeting issued a Political Declaration,

setting forth their views on how to consolidate peace and preserve and promote détente in modern conditions. The Warsaw Treaty member-states stressed their readiness for dialogue and cooperation with all those wedded to this great goal.

(The full text of the Declaration will be carried in "Moscow News" No. 3.)

Yuri ANDROPOV: We have enough power to withstand the military threat from imperialism

Despite the adverse development which made themselves felt early in the 1980s, the socialist community's international position remains reliable and solid. This was declared by the CPSU Central Committee's General Secretary Yuri Andropov in an interview to the Czechoslovak newspaper "Rude právo" at the end of the Warsaw Treaty's Political Consultative Committee meeting in Prague.

We have enough goodwill and determination to advance step by

step towards the consolidation of European security and towards the attainment of a healthier international political atmosphere, Yuri Andropov stressed. We have enough power to withstand the military threat from imperialism. The main conclusion to be derived from the whole of our comradely exchange of views at the meeting could be defined as follows: the designs of aggressive imperialist circles to squeeze socialism tight should be countered by the further

strengthening of our unity and of our economic and defence potential. It would be just to say that immediately linked to this is the security of our countries and the fate of the world as a whole. As for the Soviet Union, Yuri Andropov concluded, the strengthening of friendship and the development of cooperation with the fraternal countries have always occupied and will continue to occupy a special place of priority in its international policies.

THE RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Christmas services took place in all Russian Orthodox churches in honour of this holiday, which is celebrated by the Russian Orthodox Church on January 7 (December 25 according to the old calendar).

The ringing of bells greeted Patriarch Pimen of Moscow and All Russia who arrived at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Epiphany to conduct the festive liturgy. The ceremony was traditionally attended by both regular parishioners and by diplomats and members of their families.

Patriarch Pimen, New Year and Christmas messages to all the faithful - calls special attention to the need to execute the Christian's sacred duty of working for stronger peace and friendship among nations.



During the service. Photo by Andrei Knyazev

The sun shines on all children



American and Soviet schoolchildren during their friendly meeting.

Photo by Alexei Kuzmin

Vitaly Ruben, Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, met a group of American schoolchildren representing the recently formed "Children for peace" movement, in the Kremlin. Five young Californians and their leader Pat Montandon, a noted public figure and writer, brought with them five brightly decorated bags filled with letters and drawings by American schoolchildren expressing wishes of peace and friendship.

While in Moscow the American children met their Soviet counterparts from the International Friendship Club at the city Pioneer House. The guests sang their hosts a song, which went as follows: Peace is the future, peace is the sunrise... The hosts reciprocated with the "May there always be sunshine, may there always be rain" song. Tatyana BOGOSLOVSKAYA

SOVIET PROPOSALS 'A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION'

Washington, Approval of the latest peace proposals put forward by the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Treaty countries has been expressed by H.-J. Vogel, the Social-Democratic candidate for the post of Chancellor at the forthcoming elections in West Germany. He is now on a visit to the United States.

He described as "a good idea" the proposed treaty on the mutual renunciation of military force and the maintenance of peaceful relations between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO, and stressed the need for "a serious examination" of the proposal. He also said that the recent Soviet proposals for measures to limit and reduce nuclear weapons in Europe is a step in the right direction.

Vogel expressed his confidence that by following along this road it will be possible to arrive at agreement at the Geneva talks.

Talking to journalists, H.-J. Vogel made it plain that during his forthcoming talks with the American leaders he intended to put special emphasis on the growing alarm in Western Europe over the unending arms race. More and more people are expressing their concern over the threat of a nuclear conflagration, he stressed. It is hardly accidental that in West Germany, for instance, the problem of ensuring lasting peace will be a key issue during the Bundestag election scheduled for next March.

WHITE HOUSE POLICY LEADS TO DISASTER

Washington. A draft resolution demanding that the American government should renounce the first use of nuclear weapons and conclude relevant treaties with all the countries of the world has been tabled in the House of Representatives by Theodore Weiss, a Democratic Representative of the state of New York.

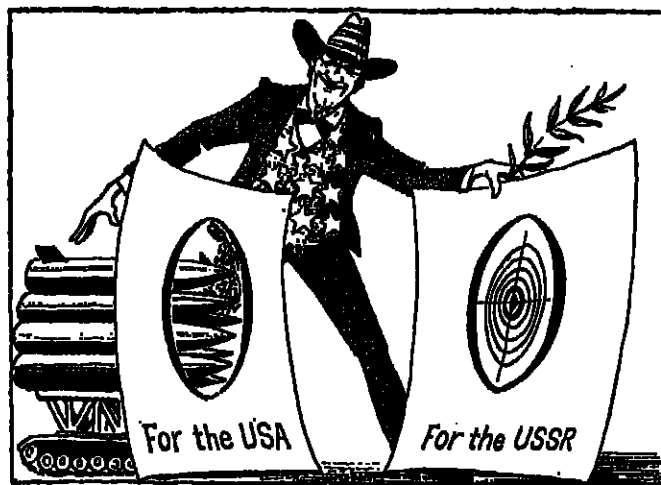
The present administration refuses to commit itself to not being the first to use nuclear

weapons, said the American legislator in moving his proposal. What is more, the White House continues to create such modern first-strike weapons as the nuclear ICB missiles and the Cruise and Pershing-2. The administration has embarked on the road towards a massive buildup of a potential for waging nuclear war and has brought the world still closer to the brink of disaster with its nuclear strategy aimed at attack rather than defence.

Bourguiba on ways to settle Middle East conflict

Tunis. Tunisian president Habib Bourguiba has lashed out against Israeli expansionist policies and its genocide against the Arab people of Palestine. He praised the results of the Pex meeting of Arab states and government heads. The Pex plan for settling the Middle East con-

flict, he stressed, should be supported by the world community. This would enable the Arab people of Palestine, led by the PLO, to make good their legitimate right to self-determination and to the creation of an independent state, he emphasized.



Why don't you like my Zero Option?

Drawing by D. Agayev

Fidel Castro on Central America

Havana. Most countries in Latin America and on other continents hope for a peaceful solution to the volatile situation in Central America, the chief obstacle to this being American policy, which is stubbornly opposed to détente in the region, stressed Cuban leader Fidel Castro talking to foreign newsmen here.

Washington, he continued, is obsessed with the "need" to make short work of the patriotic forces in Central America, and seeks in vain to check the liberation process.

He flatly dismissed American

propaganda allegations that the Soviet Union is giving support to the insurgent forces in the region.

Cuba, he stressed, is being charged with "exporting" revolution but, in reality, he went on, the emergence and development of other revolutionary processes depends on objective and subjective conditions. To claim that revolution can be exported is pure stupidity, Castro emphasized.

He lashed out against Washington's overt interventionist designs against revolutionary Nicaragua.

NICARAGUA PROTESTS AGAINST ACTS OF SUBVERSION

Managua. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has issued a firm protest to the Reagan administration over the sharp increase in the number of provocative sallies carried out by the Somoza gang backed by the United States.

In recent days, says the Nicaraguan note addressed to the US State Department, criminal

actions committed against the population in Nicaragua by the counter-revolutionary troops based in Honduras have actually led to a critical situation on the border between the two countries. The aggravation in tension is a direct consequence of the military, economic and political support which the United States accords to the Somoza followers.

America undermines the Convention on the Law of the Sea

New York. The UN Secretary-General J. Pérez de Cuellar has expressed his regret over the Reagan administration's decision to refuse to contribute to the budget of the preparatory committee which is meeting to devise the terms to implement the Convention on the Law of the Sea. This international code which is the first instrument to lay down universal rules for the use of the World Ocean was recently signed by 119 countries.

The above financial sanction is the latest in a series of subversive actions taken by the Reagan administration against the Convention. Though the Convention has been drawn up in everyone's interests, it does not suit some American corporations which are dead set on the extraction of useful minerals in international areas of the World Ocean.

IMPORTANT WIN FOR ITALIAN PEACE CHAMPIONS

Rome. Work has been temporarily suspended at Comiso, Sicily, on a base for 112 US medium-range nuclear missiles following a sit-in by women protesting against Sicily being turned into a launching pad for American nuclear weapons.

This time the authorities decided not to use force against the demonstrators who blocked entry to the construction site for truckloads of materials. Last week police broke up an anti-war peace demonstration, wounding five persons, which aroused strong protest from the democratic public in Italy.

According to "Paese Sera", the suspension of the construction of the Cruise missile base is another success for the antiwar movement.

DANGEROUS 'GAMES'

Tokyo. K. Tanikawa, head of the department of the Japanese national defence, Weyand, US ground forces commander in Japan, Mackay, US Navy commander in Japan, and Holcomb, commander of the US Seventh Fleet, met here recently and reached agreement on expanding the scale of American-Japanese war games.

Local press reports stress that the number of Japanese-American military exercises has been boosted since the Reagan administration came to power. Last year alone there were around 20 such games, while between July and September they continued non-stop.

Call to resume talks

Buenos Aires. On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the British seizure of the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands, the government of Argentina has again drawn the attention of the UN to London's crude arbitrary actions in that territory.

In his letter to UN Secretary-General J. Pérez de Cuellar the Argentine UN Ambassador stressed that the British militarization of the occupied islands is "a source of serious tension in the south Atlantic". Argentina, he went on, has never recoiled itself to the violation of its sovereignty and has repeatedly urged Britain to give back the usurped territory. The Argentine government reaffirmed its readiness to resume talks with Britain on the attainment of a fair and ultimate settlement of the settlement of the dispute over the islands' sovereignty.



These pictures capture recent events in Overlows, Miami's Black ghetto, where the powers-that-be used weapons to force the Black population to end their civil rights drive. Two people were killed and many others wounded and arrested. Now members of the Ku-Klux Klan are on the rampage in the subdued ghetto. Photos AP-TASS

FACTS AND EVENTS

© In Israel, 150,000 civil servants and municipal employees have had their demands met for higher wages and better working conditions. They went on strike protesting against runaway inflation, which has risen above 130 per cent over the past year.

© After three months of active combat operations the insurgents in El Salvador are in control of some ten residential areas, having driven out the regime troops. The guerrillas' successful operations in the country's three departments have boosted their authority among the local peasants.

© Over the past ten years, the Swedish Air Force has lost 121 combat aircraft and 51 pilots have died in air crashes, the Stockholm "Svenska Dagbladet" newspaper reports. This year alone five planes have crashed killing three pilots.

AFGHANS SAY 'NO' TO AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT

Kabul. More than a million industrial and office workers, peasants, intellectuals, clergy and students have taken part in marches, demonstrations and meetings in different provinces of Afghanistan. And these are continuing. The demonstrators demand an end to the undeclared war which has been unleashed by the forces of imperialism and reaction, and in particular by the United States, against revolutionary Afghanistan. They express their support for the policies pursued by the People's Revolutionary Party of Afghanistan and the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

FRG: THE WEAPONS BUSINESS

Bonn. Should the result of the early parliamentary elections in West Germany be to retain in office the government led by the CDU/CSU coalition, this will make it still easier for the West German military and industrial concerns to sell their weapons abroad. This was declared in an interview given to the DDP news agency by Werner Marx of the CDU party, Chairman of the Bundestag Foreign Relations Commission.

Press reports say that over the past decade, weapons made in the FRG have been sold to 70 countries. They are used by South African racist and dictatorial regimes in Africa and Latin America.

According to the "Die Stern" magazine, West German arms manufacturers earn around 1.1 thousand million marks a year.

Prospects for Franco-Soviet cooperation

Paris. French minister of state, minister for research and technology Jean-Pierre Chevènement spoke of France's interest in maintaining good relations with the Soviet Union in an interview with the monthly magazine of the Franco-USSR society in which he shares his impressions of his recent Moscow visit. My talks in the Soviet

Union, he stressed, aimed at summing up our countries' scientific and industrial cooperation.

On prospects for further scientific cooperation between the two countries, he stressed that a new ten-year programme for expanding scientific and technological cooperation is being drawn up.

THE NEIGHBOURS HAVE IT EVEN WORSE

Madrid. According to preliminary estimates, the Spanish economy has shown only a 1.3 growth rate in 1982. In answer to the question whether this is a lot or a little the Madrid-based "Cambio-16" magazine states that if one is talking about how to get the country out of its economic crisis, this

result leaves nothing to hope for, whereas if one is to compare it with the figures achieved by many industrialized Western countries by the start of the New Year, it might be some sort of consolation to note that "the neighbours have it even worse".

Science and technology

HEAT FOR HOTHOUSES

Engineers at a Bucharest enterprise for designing power stations have come up with an original design for a hothouse. Its main distinguishing feature is that it is located on the grounds of a thermal station and is heated not on the inside but on the outside by water dripping down its roof and walls enclosed in a thin film. On cooling the water is fed into the technological cycle anew. The hothouse has a stable temperature of 14°C.

BLOSSOM TO ORDER

Bulgarian scientists have "taught" carnations to flower to order. Previously, after the carnations had been picked in the hothouses, these which had failed to bloom, used to be thrown out. Now they are stored in a refrigerator for one to two months. And after being put into an artificial nutrient solution, they burst into blossom in eight or ten days' time.

AN INDIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

On New Year's Eve the second Indian research expedition of 28 men landed in Antarctica. Two helicopters delivered them to the station founded one year ago by the first expedition.

The first expedition aimed at exploring the continent and at setting up a research station. The second expedition will stay there for two months carrying out oceanographic and geographic research for minerals and oil. The present expedition will also establish a permanent communications line between the station and India.

The third Indian expedition will go to Antarctica late in 1983 and from 1985 it is planned that the station will function continuously.

Suez Canal: tariffs are going up

Cairo. In 1983, the fees for passing through the Suez Canal are to go up. This has been announced by the Suez Canal Administration. The rise in tariffs mainly applies to smaller and medium-size ships, whereas giants carrying more than 200,000 tonnes of cargo will pay somewhat less. This is because most super-tankers sail from the Persian Gulf to Europe avoiding the Suez Canal by using a cheaper route via the southern tip of Africa.

It is expected that Egypt will benefit from the rise in tariffs to the tune of 30 million dollars. Last year, Egypt's revenue from the Canal amounted to a thousand million dollars. This marine route is a major enterprise in the state sector of the Egyptian economy.

OF INTEREST

A souvenir for smokers

Smokers subscribing to the Italian magazine "Lo Sgarbene" were surprised to receive, with one of the latest issues, a "souvenir"—a pack of cigarettes. When they opened it, they discovered a miniature 150-page pamphlet to warn them about the tragic consequences of smoking.

The Old Man and the Sea

A turtle with a swordfish, reminiscent of Ernest Hemingway's "Old Man and the Sea",

FROM the SOVIET PRESS

'SURVIVE TOGETHER OR DIE TOGETHER'

One of the striking things about our times is that people all over the globe associate well-being with the worst situation, writes political observer Vitaly Kobyshev in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA. "Survive together or die together" read the placards which demonstrators carry not only in Bonn, Tokyo, London or the Hague, but also in New York, Washington, Chicago and Los Angeles.

On New Year's Eve, Yuri Andropov put forward new proposals on strategic armaments and on nuclear weapons in Europe. He stated, "The Soviets and the Americans have one common enemy—the threat of war and everything that aggravates it". Since we have common enemy, we should also share the same concern — to destroy this enemy while it is still not too late, Kobyshev concludes.

LANGLEY'S ITALIAN CONNECTION

Progressive circles in the West, including the United States and Italy have described as a "cold war action" the slanderous fabrication spread by the Western bourgeois press concerning the "involvement" of the Soviet and Bulgarian secret services in the attempt on the life of Pope John Paul II by the Turkish neo-Nazi Agca on May 13, 1981, writes Viktor Bolshakov in PRAVDA. This is undoubtedly a very apt description. The very idea that there are circles in socialist countries which can have anything to do with acts of terrorism is basically absurd, as it contradicts the policy and ideology of our society.

The author comes to the conclusion based on specific facts, that the Pope's activities could only be feared by circles involved in the arms race which could bring the human race to the brink of extinction — a course that is opposed by the Roman Catholic Church. The CIA has always been a reliable tool in American foreign politics. It was only after the Italian special services — which maintain close links with Langley (CIA headquarters) source of "the Crusade" against Communism — had got in touch with Agca in prison that he began to give his "testimony", concludes Bolshakov.

IN THE CLUTCHES OF DEBT

Relations between monopoly capital and developing nations is one of the aspects covered in an EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA article by V. Polyakov exposing the goals of a recent Washington "seminar" on freedom and free elections. The arguments expressed there in favour of the retention of the dominant positions occupied by Western corporations, primarily American, in the economies of many developing nations, the article points out, aim at hanging on to their right to mercilessly plunder those nations.

The author quotes the following figures in justification of his point.

The aggregate debt of the developing nations to industrialized capitalist states, to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development controlled by the United States and to private banks reached \$20,000 million dollars in 1981 as compared to 180,000 million in 1975. In other words, the Asian, African and Latin American countries are forced to pay the United States and other developed capitalist nations 169,000 million dollars annually.

Between 1970 and 1977 transnational corporations netted 72,700 million in profits on investment in developing countries on the three continents.

This is why the American administration is still trying to forcibly curb the progressive reforms now under way in some young nations, the article points out.

THE APARTHEID REGIME OVERTAKEN BY DEEPENING CRISIS

Apartheid represents the cruelest suppression of the 21,000,000 strong Black majority in South Africa, writes I. Tarutin in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

Arbitrary police rule, reliance on force and the country's militarization are what keeps the racist regime in power, the article points out. The authorities in Pretoria seek to check the growing wave of popular wrath by making use of a powerful and ramified network of apparatus of suppression. Lately the rapaciousness of the apparatus has been stepped up. A new code of laws on "national security" has been passed, giving more powers to the police. There is now a visible trend in the country towards terroristic methods of rule. Prime Minister P. Botha confirmed this when he claimed that the apartheid policy is fair, sensible and workable.

But despite all efforts by Pretoria and assistance from its overseas guardians, the paper points out, the apartheid regime is being overtaken by deepening crisis. Black and coloured people, Indians, certain sections of the white population, and representatives of various classes and social groups are fighting the racist system.

VIEWPOINT

Edgar CHEPOROV

WHAT THE USSR SUGGESTS FOR EUROPE

The Soviet Union wants disarmament. The Russians know the price of nuclear risk, such was the reaction of many Western public and political figures to the new Soviet proposals on limiting nuclear armaments in Europe. But there was a difference between the Western reaction and the Soviet position. The Soviet Union, which still insists on its dedicated "zero option" line of America's Atlantic partners also hardened to show their solidarity with their leader, even though certain among them have been exposed for raising objections even without having got acquainted with the Soviet position.

In assessing Washington's position on the new Soviet proposals, the Moscow "Pravda" newspaper deemed it necessary to state: "This is the question being us either we have an agreement or years of aggravation and dangerous nuclear confrontation."

The Soviet Union has again voiced its desire for an honest and fair agreement. The main element in our position is our willingness to reach an understanding not to have a single aircraft or medium-range missile more than NATO. The Soviet Union is prepared to retain only as many missiles in the European zone as are possessed by Britain and France. This would mean cutting back dozens and hundreds of Soviet missiles, including the most sophisticated ones. The balance of forces in medium-range missiles between the USSR and the United States in Europe would thus really be "zero", with the USSR having the equivalent of the relevant British and French weapons.

As is known, France and Britain have between them 263 missile and air means of delivering nuclear weapons to targets which is more than a tenth of NATO's entire arsenal. These weapons can already deliver

soma 600 nuclear charges to targets at distances of up to 4,500 kilometres. Once an additional 372 new American missiles are deployed in Western Europe under the NATO "dual" decision, NATO would achieve 150 per cent superiority in means of delivery and a roughly 200 per cent advantage in nuclear charges.

This ratio could still be tipped even more in NATO's favour upon the implementation of the French and British governments' decision on the modernization of the national nuclear forces. Thus the number of French missiles will grow from 98 to 130 units, whilst there will be a sevenfold increase in the number of nuclear warheads they are capable of delivering to targets. In 1982 the Thatcher government agreed with the Reagan administration to arm American Trident-2 rockets, increasing their total number of British missile submarines with

nuclear warheads aboard the British missile submarines from 192 units to 896 or 1,120.

How could the USSR disregard this formidable nuclear potential? The French and British missiles are trained on targets in our territory, and this is why any decision on nuclear medium-range weapons based on the principle of parity and equal security should take into account the British and French nuclear potential. The Soviet side is prepared to agree on maximally low sublevels in missiles, but their quantitative aspect is determined by the presence in Europe of British and French missiles, which total 162 in number. It is clear, therefore, that given these circumstances, the Soviet Union's proposal is a highly radical solution.

The American "zero" presupposing unilateral Soviet disarmament has been countered by the Soviet proposal to reduce many hundreds of Soviet and American medium-range carriers in Europe and achieve parity between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO at the lowest level possible. "Pravda" emphasized: These are simple and clear-cut proposals. The USSR is not bent on forcing unilateral disarmament on anyone and is not aspiring to gain military superiority. The Soviet initiative requires that America and the whole of the West adopt a responsible attitude towards them.

Round the Soviet Union

● A NEW COKE BATTERY, CAPABLE OF TURNING OUT 200,000 TONNES OF PRODUCTS ANNUALLY, was made operational at the Kirov by-product coke plant in Donetsk, Ukrainian SSR.

● THE EVERDLOVSK OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE HAS OPENED ITS DOORS FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER RENOVATION. The building built at the beginning of the 20th century has been made lighter and more festive. Its walls have been gilded and it has been decorated with a dozen crystal chandeliers. Spacious halls have been added and the musicians, singers and dancers, as well as the support staff, have been provided with convenient accommodation.

● A NEW POWER TRANSMISSION LINE HAS BEEN CONNECTED TO THE FAR EASTERN POWER GRID. With electricity supplied at 500 kilovolts, the 600 km line connecting the Zeya HEP and Khabarovsk crosses the tundra and mountain ridges. It was constructed within the space of one year: the builders used helicopters in places hard to get to putting up more than a thousand pylons, each weighing several tonnes.

● THE FLEET OF RESEARCH VESSELS IN AZERBAIJAN HAS HAD A NEW ADDITION—THE "ELM" (SCIENCE), a ship which is designed for a comprehensive study of the natural resources of the Caspian Sea.

● TREE PLANTING HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO AN END ON THE SPURS OF THE TALYSH RANGE—THE SUBTROPICAL ZONE OF AZERBAIJAN—WHERE TREES HAVE BEEN PLANTED ON MOUNTAIN SLOPES, IN RAVINES AND ALONG ROADS. The old green belt is being constantly expanded. Over the current five-year plan period it is planned to expand the plantations of Persian parrotia, of chestnut-leaved oak and Lankaran scale. Subtropical forests now occupy over 100 thousand hectares in Azerbaijan.

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

SOCIAL MAINTENANCE IN THE USSR

Old age pensions are available to all in the Soviet Union once they reach retirement age and provided they have worked for a certain length of time. Donna Komarova, Minister for Social Maintenance in the Russian Federation, the biggest Soviet republic (with a population of 140 million), writes in the journal KOMMUNIST.

The Minister stresses that retirement age was set in the Soviet Union in the late twenties—it is 60 for men and 55 for women. For workers in many categories, specifically for those employed in the mining, chemical and metallurgical industries, in transport and at textile mills, the retirement age is lower—50-55 for men and 45-50 for women. The required length of service in order to qualify for a retirement pension is 25 years for men and 20 years for women.

An important feature of the social security service in the Soviet Union is the high level of pensions and benefits relative to former earnings, while the recipients simultaneously enjoy other types of assistance, various things benefits and privileges. Pensions in the Soviet Union are raised on a planned basis to meet the steady rise in average wages.

It is said in the article that there has been a thirty per cent increase in appropriations for social maintenance over the last five years. In 1981 alone pensions were raised for approximately 14 million pensioners.

WHAT PROGRESS IN SCIENCE PROMISES 1983

In 1983 research and development allocations in the USSR will amount to 25,300 million roubles, or 6.2 per cent more than in 1982, whereas national income will only grow by 2.3 per cent.

The Vice-President of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Yuri Oreshnikov, discusses in TRUD the contribution science is expected to make in 1983 and the impact this could have on the national economy and on each individual.

Of course, discoveries are always unexpected, the Academician writes, but this is what gives them their charm. However, knowing the stage that research in a

particular field has reached one should be able to predict a discovery or a particular development. In science, I believe, that 1983 will be a bright and very interesting year, full of major discoveries. It is not improbable that some of them will make history.

Last year a method for the production of interferon using gene engineering was developed in the Soviet Union. Interferon protects the human organism from all viruses. If we have enough interferon, we will be immune to all virus infection. Unfortunately, interferon, especially in its pure form, is in short supply, and the only way of making sufficient stocks available is to resort to gene engineering. The latter is a fantastically productive method of producing interferon. All you have to do is to separate a human interferon gene and install it in a microorganism and the latter will start secreting human interferon. Interferon produced in this way will probably be available industrially in 1983. This does not however mean that interferon will be immediately in wide use—it needs to be tested first and gene engineering will provide the interferon required to carry out the test programme.

At present scientists are able to design cell material and to manipulate cells and obtain new ones with unusual properties.

True, cell engineering has only been successful in the case of plants and new types have already been derived. Several entities available in plants, including medicinal substances, obtained by cell engineering. Five-six years ago this was beyond our capability, while today it can be easily done. I have no doubt, the Academician concludes, that this new trend in biology will produce more bright results in 1983.

ESTONIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO SOVIET SCIENCE

In the NAUKA I ZHIZN magazine K. Rebane, President of the Estonian SSR Academy of Sciences, highlights the cooperative nature of science in the Soviet multinational state, where the achievements of each republic are accessible to all.

There is not a single area in the USSR, the author contends, which does not use inventions made in Estonia. New treatments effective in traumatology and suggested by A. Sepp are now in use in the Far East. Cilman in Central Asia plugs wells with mixtures pre-

pared by using technology developed in Tallinn. The Institute of Economics in Estonia has been involved in the development of the Urengoi-Ust-Kamenogorsk pipeline. Soviet cosmonauts are assisted in their study of silvery clouds by Estonian astrophysicists.

The studies of the Baltic Sea form one of the most interesting and promising problem areas. The Institute of Thermal and Electrical Physics is now engaged in the following fields: it is working on models and on the forecasting of changes in the basic features of the Baltic Sea environment, on new methods of studying the structure and interaction of physico-chemical fields of shallow seas, on experimental studies of the distribution, transfer and transformation of substances harmful for marine ecological systems, particularly heavy metals and chlorine-organic substances, and on other Soviet scientists, as well as foreign researchers, take part in the work being carried out by the "Ayu Dag" research ship which has contributed to a number of international programmes.

TAPPING THE TIDES

PRAVDA recalls that in 1968 the first Soviet tidal power station went into operation in Kizlyazh Guba in the Barents Sea. It has become a range of sorts enabling scientists to test many technical solutions applicable to both future tidal power stations and hydroelectric projects in general, as conditions in Kizlyazh Guba, which is in the Polar Region, are fairly harsh.

Even before it went into operation the Kizlyazh Guba station was dubbed a small station of great expectations, the newspaper notes. Have these expectations been realized some 14 years later? The newspaper answers this question in the positive as more powerful stations are either being built or planned in many countries, including in Canada, Britain and China. It is worth mentioning that many of the above projects are based on the Soviet experience. A 40,000 kilowatt tidal station is being designed before the end of 1985. This project, in general, as conditions in Kizlyazh Guba, which is in the Polar Region, are fairly harsh. It is intended to test tidal power technology and various versions of dams. More complex tasks will also be attempted. Experts suggest for instance damming the Mezeny Bay in the White Sea and the Pechenay Bay in the Sea of Okhotsk and installing high performance power units there.

Gas from Urengoi

West Siberian Urengoi gas has started to arrive in the Kursk Region, in central European Russia. A compressor plant capable of pumping dozens of millions of cubic metres of gas has been commissioned by Yelst-Kursk leg which serves as a tributary line both for the sections of the pipeline already in operation and those under construction.

The plant will facilitate an increase in gas flow and the extensive utilization of natural gas in the rural areas of the Kursk Region.

ADVANCED CONTROLLERS FOR MACHINE TOOLS

The Leningrad electroengineering plant has started full-scale production of advanced controllers for machine tools.

These controllers have a bigger programme memory enough to store programmes for machining several types of workpieces rather than just one as was the case before. To machine a new part, the operator need only press a button for the controller to "recall" the data required.

The plant is now concentrating on a wider use of electronics in machine tools.

A substitute for shale

A power unit at the Estonian Power Station which previously ran on combustible shale, has now been switched onto so-called shale oil. The oil is produced at the station's experimental plant which converts combustible shale into liquid fuel.

Shale oil will facilitate a rise in the performance of the power units, since they will no longer be clogged up by combustion products. There is no fear of air pollution with the new technology.



The library.

MOSCOW'S LIBRARY OF FOREIGN LITERATURE CELEBRATES ITS 60th ANNIVERSARY

anti-fascist Resistance in Europe during World War II. About 1,500 rare books are restored annually in the library's restoration department.

The specially designed library building on Kotelnicheskaya Naberezhnaya in Moscow is equipped with highly convenient services for readers. Besides a general reading room for schoolchildren and students there are special reading rooms for scientists and professors, a periodicals hall, a hall of new acquisitions, an audiovisual aids hall and a hall of rare books.

But in addition to using the library for obtaining a new book, not available in other city libraries, Muscovites come to the library for other

purposes. They come here to see book exhibitions, more than sixty of which are organized annually, or to attend meetings and soirées marking cultural events in the Soviet Union and other countries. Among the other fixtures organized in the library are lectures given by Soviet and foreign writers and critics, and amateur performances.

The library's international relations department engages in a wide field of activities. For example, it cooperates with many scientific organizations in socialist countries and has links and trade agreements in book exchange with 1,300 libraries in 91 countries.

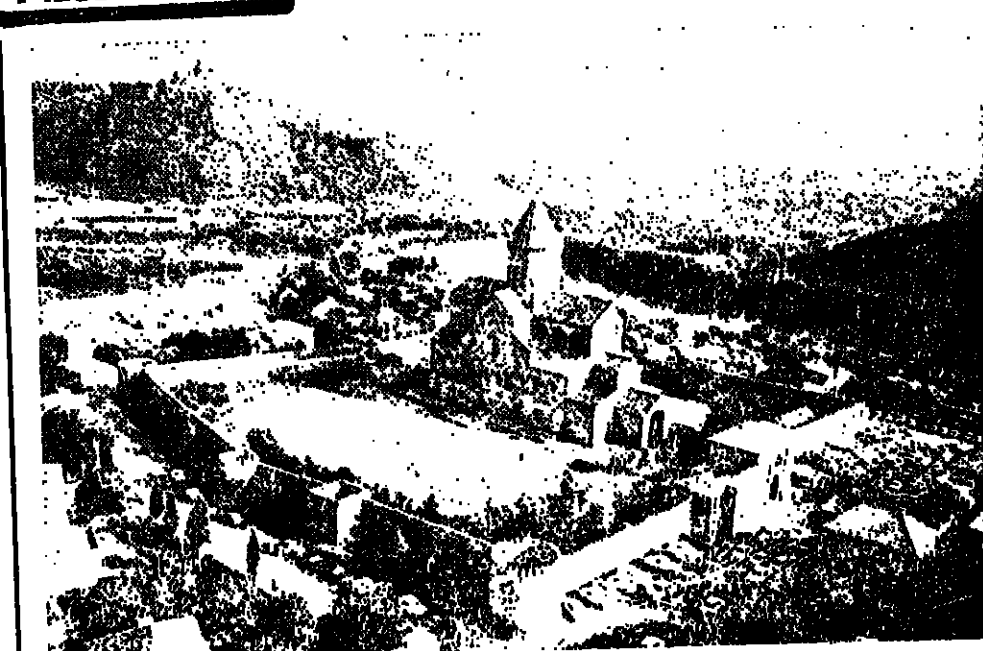
Georgi STREINIKOV



One of the latest acquisitions in the rare books department.

The book depository.

Places to visit



Every house - a monument

The town of Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia, has been declared a protected city, in which nothing can be altered without the approval of architects.

The Svetitskhoveli Cathedral in Mtskheta contains the sepulchre of Vakhtang Gorgasali, who founded Tbilisi, the present capital, 15 hundred years ago. Mtskheta is also known to have been the residence of Irakli the II who championed friendship and fraternal feelings towards the Russian people. It is he who 200 years ago signed the famous treaty proclaiming the volun-

tary unification of Georgia with Russia. Mtskheta is over 25 centuries old. In its early days it was the capital of the ancient Iberian kingdom, and an administrative and trading centre.

The government of the Georgian republic has decided to turn Mtskheta into a museum-city. The local Acropolis, Armatskhlo, the Dzhvari Church, the Samtavro Monastery and the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral form the so-called Mtskheta Island of ancient monuments which have long been a place of pilgrimage for many tourists.

PROTECTION FOR LATVIA'S RARE BIRDS

Latvia's Ministry for Forestry and the Wood-Working Industry has announced the creation of 38 ornithological sanctuaries. This means that all the nesting grounds or rare birds in Latvia have been registered and are now under supervision.

Felling trees and other business activities have been forbidden in specified areas within a radius of up to three kilometres. Timber industry enterprises have been ordered to shift their activities to other areas. From early spring till late autumn all people whether carrying guns or cameras have been barred from the reserve for a ten-year period.

Researchers at the Biology Institute of the Latvian Academy of Sciences are seeking out and making lists of rare birds. They have recommended that over 180 nesting places be taken under protection, and these measures have already brought rich returns: in the few years ornithologists have registered growing numbers of black stork, as well as of the osprey and spotted eagle. A goose heron colony has recently been discovered on the sea coast, and eagle owls, sea eagles and black kites have made their appearance in several areas.

60-VOLUME SERIES OF SIBERIAN AND FAR EASTERN FOLKLORE

A unique 60-volume series "Monuments of the Folklore of the Siberian and Far Eastern Peoples" is being compiled by Nauka Publishers at the decision of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

In terms of size it is roughly equal to 70 copies of Homer's "Odyssey".

'CITY AND MAN'

At the initiative of the Ruhl Society of Architects and of the Soviet Friendship Society a symposium was held in Essen, West Germany on the theme, "Modern town planning and social progress". Present was a group of Soviet architects led by secretary of the board of the USSR Architects Union, Nodar Mgaloblishvili, who shared his impressions with us.

Prior to the symposium Essen hosted a big exhibition illustrating Soviet town planning practices. "City and Man", mounted by the USSR Architects Union, featured the architectural advances achieved in many cities in Soviet republics, including Soviet Georgia. Visitors to the show were particularly interested in the reconstruction and renewal of many old quarters in Tbilisi.

Those taking part in the symposium visited Duisburg, Dortmund, Düsseldorf, Cologne and Munich, and learnt in detail about their town planning practices.

A state-farm museum

It was an archaeological discovery that led to the foundation of the folk museum of history and ethnography at the Byelorussian state farm of Gorodets.

The remains of a 9th-century settlement were found on the site of the farm at Lushki. The inhabitants of the settlement smelted iron, indulged in chased, bronze work and made ceramic utensils. The objects made by ancient smiths, potters and jewellers form the backbone of the exhibition which tells the story of the area. Also on view at the museum are items of modern make which inherit and develop the old traditions.

A separate room is devoted to the works of Byelorussian painters who were born in the area.



There is a factory in Izhevsk, the capital of the Udmurt Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic in the Volga valley, that makes articles out of wood reproducing local folklore themes. They are sent to 40 cities and towns within the USSR, and abroad. You can see some of the Udmurt souvenirs in our picture.

VIEWPOINT

Transportation: opportunities for intensification

Leonid KORNEYEV

It's not for nothing that transport is called the circulatory system of the economy. The larger the economy the more important transport is for it.

A quick glance at the map of the Soviet Union, which occupies one-sixth of the globe's land and is washed by three oceans, and you'll immediately understand what transport means to the Soviet national economy.

The USSR has a unified transportation system. Unlike the countries with a market-oriented economy, all types of transport in the USSR—rail, road, sea, river, air, and pipeline—do not compete, rather they, complement each other in close interrelation.

This advantage, no matter how great it is, does not solve all possible problems in the area. Vast expanses and adverse climatic conditions make transport a very expensive industry. It provides employment for 10 per cent of all those engaged in the national economy and its costs have reached the level of 25,000 million roubles a year. Nevertheless, transport expedites a lot of strain and has become one of the world's bottlenecks to the economy. Suffice it to say that Soviet transport delivers one-half of the world's transported goods.

To prevent transport turning into a hindrance to the further growth of the national economy, we continue building roads and railways (including the Baikal-Amur railway, some 4,800 kilometres long, extending through the Siberian tundra to the Pacific), and transcontinental pipelines. The production of trucks is on the increase and Aeroflot, the world's biggest air carrier, is on the rise as well. The Merchant Navy has been acquiring new ships, including nuclear ones, and new types of transport such as hydraulic and pneumo-container are being developed.

What are the opportunities for intensifying transportation in the 80s?

Forecasts say that the railway will continue to be the country's biggest carrier, though its share has decreased: in 1980 it was responsible for 80 per cent of all cargo delivered while now the figure stands at slightly more than 50 per cent. The latter figure will probably remain for some time. By 1985, the country will have about 50,000 kilometres of railways with electric traction which will carry 60 per cent of all railway freight.

By the volume of goods delivered in containers, the USSR has taken over Western Europe and the USA. It should be noted that this country offers container services to other countries—the container bridge Western Europe-Japan via the USSR, adds about 100,000 containers a year to the national figures.

Intensification, naturally, will involve other types of transport as well. Increasing their throughput. For instance, in addition to KamAZ, gross trucks to ZIL in Moscow and GAZ in Gorky. Marine and river facilities are being expanded and air services improved.

These measures will enable the country to increase its freight turnover by approximately 20 per cent by the end of 1985.

ENTERTAINMENT

Russian ballet in ancient Rome

"Russian Ballet: Its Origins, Past and Present" is the name of an exhibition now on in Rome. This is the first time that such a comprehensive exhibition has been mounted outside this country, dealing with the history of Russian ballet. The 500 exhibits trace the history of ballet since the 18th century. They come from two leading Soviet theatre museums: the Bakhruzin Museum in Moscow and the Theatre Museum in Leningrad. On view are posters, programmes of various ballet performances, and watercolours by Serov, Benois, Bakst and Korovin. Of particular interest are the costumes and other items once belonging to Pavlova and Ulanova, the famous ballerinas. Multiple photographs tell the story of present-day ballet.

Exhibition at the Museum of Literature

The wealth of books published in the multinational Land of the Soviets over the past six decades are on display at a jubilee exhibition which has opened at the Museum of Literature in Moscow.

The items on view include magazines and pamphlets published in the twenties on grey, rough paper: the first Soviet "solid" magazine — "Krasnaya Nov", and a whole spate of books in modest hard covers — outcoming works by Fadeyev and Mayakovsky, Shvachenko and Tabidze, Charenis and Khazana. These are followed by the first Soviet series of books — "The Library of Workers' and Peasants' Youth", "New Items from Proletarian Literature", and "The Inexpensive Library".

In the sections of the exhibition dedicated to modern literature, visitors can see the output of more than 200 publishers from every constituent republic. The multinational Soviet literature is published in 78 languages of the nations and nationalities in this country. Some idea of the scale of literary production can be gained from the following figures: in this the 50th anniversary year of the foundation of the Soviet state, nearly five thousand million copies of books and magazines were published in this country. This is 33 times the amount published in 1922.



Paris was very enthusiastic about the exhibition of traditional Soviet art of the 19th-20th centuries that was part of the USSR Days held recently in honour of the 50th anniversary of the USSR. A considerable place in the exhibition was occupied by a unique collection of silver articles, paintings and objects of decorative and applied arts. They show the artistic traditions of the Soviet people who live in Siberia.



A scene from "A Red Horse".

When words fail...

THE MOSCOW ENSEMBLE OF PLASTIC DRAMA

When words fail, the moment comes for the plastic expression of feelings. This is how Giedrius Mackevicius, the founder and director of the ensemble and writer of most of its scripts, characterizes his work.

First, a few words about Mackevicius. He is 37 and a chemist by profession, but, as often happens with artistically and musically gifted people, he changed his occupation "just in time". He acted for five years at the youth theatre of the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius. Then he acted at the drama theatre in the Lithuanian city of Kaunas. In 1977 he graduated from the Moscow Lushchaksky Institute of the Dramatic Art. Today he teaches the techniques of acting at the institute.

Many actors want to be directors but it is rarely that such dreams come true. Many directors look forward to having "a theatre of their own", "a studio of their own", "an ensemble of their own", but some are scared by responsibility, and others by the complexity of combining the professions of acting and directing.

Giedrius Mackevicius is not a man to be afraid of taking decisions and in 1983 the Moscow Ensemble of Plastic Drama which he directs will be celebrating a double anniversary — the ten years since its foundation and five years since it was given professional status.

Ten years ago the ensemble

was just a small pantomime studio attached to one of the Moscow institutes. In the opinion of Mackevicius, pantomime is one of the bases of the "theatre of plastics", the others including ballet, literature, music, the art of declamation, as well as dramatic and artistic approach.

Unlike pantomime, in which gestures are substituted for words, this is not entirely the case in plastic drama, which also differs from ballet. Giedrius Mackevicius claims that the ensemble's performances are noted for a completely different dimension of "acting existence", sincerely and emotionally and, more important, a harmonic combination of poetry, music and dance...

The backbone of the scripts used by the ensemble in its productions is always original, although very often recourse is had to well-known literary works. For instance, "Seasons" based on the fairy tale of H.C. Andersen; "The Shine of the Golden Fleece" — a synthesis of myth and sport; "The Snowstorm" after the works of Alexander Blok "The Twelve" and "The Puppet Show"; "The Red Horse" — a fantasy based on 19th- and 20th-century painting; "A Ballad of the Earth" — a fairy-tale play about the Earth and humanity; and a very unusual production based on the works of the American writer O. Henry and of the Japanese author Akutagawa.

The poetry fuses organically with the dance plastics, the music — with the decor. The action on stage is not an exact plastic repetition of the poetic text, but it emphasizes, complements or sometimes contradicts it, just like the words "peace" and "war", "children" and "bombs", "death" and "love" contradict each other. Everything depends on what the producers want to say. Mackevicius thinks, for example, that the works of Chakhov and Shklovsky were created for the drama theatre and for it alone; but at the same time he is working on a new production based on the novel, "A Day Lasting Longer Than a Century", by the well-known Kirghiz writer Chingiz Aitmatov. The latter is a complex philosophical work mixing fantasy and reality, a many-faceted tragedy.

The ensemble now consists of 16 people. They are all professionals with training in ballet, the theatre or the circus. They are all extremely talented for among the integral parts that go to make up plastic drama, about which we have already spoken, the talent of producer and performer is paramount.

Igor MIKHAYLOV



A scene from "A Ballad of the Earth". Photos by Alexei Krizan

THEATRES COOPERATE

The Kaluga Regional Drama Theatre, one of Russia's oldest theatres, now in its 203rd season, recently premiered a joint production of "Don Carlos", the tragedy of Schiller, with assistance from colleagues in the GDR.

Meiningen Theatre director Fred Gramik helped stage the tragedy.

This is the second such joint production between the twinned towns of Kaluga and Meiningen which are linked by an agreement for cooperation in the arts. Earlier Kaluga director N. Ulyanov produced A. Vampilov's "Last Summer in Chulimsk" at the Meiningen Theatre, which was a big success with viewers.

PAGANINI'S 'CARMAGNOLE' IN ODESSA

The first piece of music ever written by Paganini when he was 12 — variations on the theme of the "Carmagnole" — was played recently at a concert given at the Odessa Philharmonic Society along with other early music by the Italian composer and violinist.

The copy of the score for this piece written in Paganini's own

hand was discovered in 1980 by Italian musicologists. The Institute of Genoa, which maintains friendly relations with Odessa, presented the score to their Odessa colleagues. It was played by violinist M. Turchinchenko and guitarist A. Shcherchenko, of the Odessa Philharmonic Society.

The concert was dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the birth of Paganini.

Student choir on professional stage

The popularity which has fallen to the lot of the student choir from the Kiev Conservatoire is the envy even of professionals. Almost simultaneously, the young performers received invitations to sing in concerts at the Ukrainian Palace of Culture and at the Republican House of Organ and Chamber Music. And now they are to take part in the All-Union Festival of Choral Art in Vladimir.

This "demand" for the choir is not accidental, for over the past decade it has won broad recognition thanks to its high artistic merit.

The Kievian students sing ancient Ukrainian songs, pieces by Beethoven, and Mozart, Lyenko and Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich and Shchedrin. Shostakovich and Shchedrin. The Melodia recording company has made three LPs of their performances.

WHAT'S ON?

January 8-10

THEATRES

Kremlin Palace of Congresses (Kremlin). 8 — Prokofiev, "The Stone Flower" (opera).

Bolshoi Theatre (Sverdlov Sq). 8 (mat) — Double-bills: Rimsky-Korsakov, "Mozart and Salieri" (opera); Tchaikovsky, "Iolanthe" (opera); 8 (eve) — Prokofiev, "Betrothal in a Monastery"; 9 (mat) — Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin"; 9 (eve) — Shostakovich, "The Golden Age" (ballet).

Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre (17 Pushkinskaya St). 8 (mat) — Tchaikovsky, "Iolanthe" (opera); 8 (eve) — Schubert, "Evening Dances"; 9 (mat) — Tchaikovsky, "The Snow Maiden" (ballet); 9 (eve) — Mozart, "La finta giardiniera" (opera); 10 (eve) — Rossini, "The Barber of Seville" (opera).

FILMS

A Honeymoon in America (Lithuanian Studios).

About a married couple's reunion in America after a long separation.

Cinema: "Live" (20/8 Lomonosovsky Prospekt). Metro Universal, trolleybus 39.

The Arabian Adventures (Britain).

A fairy-tale film based on Arabian medieval folktales.

Cinema: "Orbita" (11a Proletarsky Prospekt). Metro Kolomenskaya.

CONCERT HALLS

Trade Union House, October Hall (1 Pushkinskaya St, door No. 7). 8 — Anatoly Protopopov (barron) sings songs by Melut, Puccini, Bellini, Donizetti, Meyerbeer, Massenet, Wagner, Puccini, Thomas, as well as Russian, Norwegian, Scottish, Hungarian folk songs and American spirituals. 9 — Grigory Zilber

BUSINESS

THE FIELD OF OUR ACTIVITY

Speaking about the agreement signed last October by the French and Soviet ministries of agriculture, I would compare it to a nice-looking but empty bottle which has to be filled by our joint activity, said Jean-Philippe Moulin, representing the export division of the French firm of Limagrain.

Limagrain is an agricultural cooperative producing seed and maize grain from hybrid varieties. We occupy first place in Western Europe in this field. We are prepared to make a contribution towards the solution of the great task set by the

Soviet leadership — that of improving land efficiency.

The Black Soil areas, Moldavia and the Ukraine, are particularly attractive to us, since they have rich soil and problems can be more easily solved there. That is not to say that we should forget the northern districts of the USSR with their very harsh climatic conditions. They have great importance for the Soviet Union. When we signed the agreement on cooperation in science and technology with the USSR Ministry of Agriculture, we had in mind the Non-Black Earth Zone as well.

Wide-ranging Soviet-Burmese cooperation

It was more than a quarter of a century ago, in January 1957, that the Soviet Union and Burma signed the first intergovernmental agreement on economic and technical cooperation. The agreement marked the start of the development of business contacts between the two countries in various fields of the economy: agriculture, health, protection, public education and geological prospecting.

Over the past period construction work has been completed on a number of economic projects in Burma due to the joint efforts of the two countries. These projects are now operating successfully.

For instance, the hospital in Taungtha has provided medical aid to more than one million persons over the years. It has been in operation. More than 6,000 Burmese have received higher education at the eight faculties of the Rangoon technology institute. The Inya Lake hotel is running at a profit.

The joint construction of the Chemolun irrigation project, which is of great significance for the development of Burma's agriculture, has become a symbol of profitable Soviet-Burmese economic cooperation. A dam with a storage lake of nearly a million cubic metres has been built there. Apart from the lake, the system includes two irrigation canals and a ramified irrigation network, which makes it possible to increase the irrigated

area to 12,000 hectares. Nowadays rice and cotton, wheat and vegetables as well as other crops are grown in the area. Soviet-Burmese economic and technological cooperation in other fields is also developing. Thus, Soviet organizations have prepared a feasibility study on the use of the water resources of the Sittang River for the development of agriculture and the power industry. They have given Burma assistance in the construction of time and gypsum quarries and participate in the construction of foundry, mechanical and electrical engineering workshops at the Rangoon technology institute.

THE BARENTS SEA

SHELF: COOPERATION

At its second meeting held in Moscow, a standing working group on industrial and economic cooperation between the USSR and Norway recently discussed a number of projects, including those involving the development of the Barents Sea shelf.

Also dealt with were Soviet deliveries of power, metallurgical, navigational, fish-finding and other types of equipment, as well as ships and other commodities. During the meeting talks were held between Soviet trade organizations and Norwegian companies.

Sales up 14 times

It was exactly 15 years ago, that the Japan Association for Trade with the Soviet Union was set up. It now incorporates over 50 companies, both major and medium-size, involved in trade with the USSR. The association's chairman, who was recently in Moscow, said in an address to newsmen that the association now sells 14 times more goods to the USSR than it did in its first year. The sales which amount to approximately 250 million dollars involve such well-known companies as Tairiku Trading, Chori and the Sea of Japan. Their trade with Soviet Dalintorg alone exceeds 20 million dollars. The association plays an invaluable role in sales promotion by helping Japanese firms to exhibit at trade shows in the USSR.

Suitcases from Czechoslovakia

More than two million leather handbags and suitcases are produced annually at the National Kozato plant in the Czechoslovak town of Prerov.

In 1982 our exports amounted to over 100 million korun, said one of the deputy directors of the enterprise. Our suitcases are used by the citizens of 69 countries. The Soviet Union being the largest buyer. About 300 thousand suitcases were included in 1982 deliveries, including "tele-scope" suitcases of man-made leather, briefcases and a lot of other merchandise.

This month Kazeta and Prager export are going to offer their 1984 collection of suitcases to Soviet importers.

AN-24 OVER THE EQUATOR

Soviet airmen have been working in Malabo (Equatorial Guinea) for over ten years. More than 50 thousand citizens of that country travelled by air over the past 30 months with every sixth person being a passenger with the national Luga airlines which flies exclusively the Soviet-made AN-24 and YAK-40 planes and KA-26 helicopters.

We are extremely obliged to the Soviet Union for many years of technical cooperation via the offices of Soviet Aviaexport and

for its timely deliveries of high quality machines and equipment, said Santiago Ndongo, Obiang, Laga's Administrative Director. The Soviet technology has earned a good reputation for reliability and operational convenience. It conforms fully to our requirements.

The USSR also helps us train national personnel for our airlines. The young Guineans who are at present studying in the Soviet Union will soon be piloting airlines.



Soviet engineer Mikhail Voryonin, and Hungarian specialist Ifrados, together with their Indian colleague Benarju, inspect a section of the Calcutta metro. Soviet and Hungarian engineers are helping build the metro which they also had a hand in designing. Soviet land-digging equipment performs well in the geological conditions of Calcutta and has helped speed up construction work.

Work on the metro is now in full swing with test trains made at India's state enterprises making runs along the test section of the track.

BRAZIL TO DEVELOP TRADE WITH USSR

The Brazilian national confederation of industry has spoken in favour of the further development of trade with the Soviet Union.

Increasing trade exchange between the two countries serves their interests, says confederation report dealing with Brazil's foreign trade. It notes that growing trade with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries will help the country to overcome serious financial and economic difficulties.

Contacts and contracts

© The Volksworld shipyards, in Stralsund (GDR), have started work on the first refrigeration brawler for the Soviet fishing fleet of the "Atlantik-333" type. This work was preceded by tests on four ships in an experimental series.

© An agreement on cooperation in TV and radio broadcasting has been signed in Colombo by the USSR Committee for TV and Radio Broadcasting and the Sri Lanka Ministry for Tourism, Broadcasting and Information.

© The Swedish S.U. company, which is a subsidiary of the Statkraft Group, has arranged its first symposium in Moscow, centering on the research, development, manufacture and uses of power sources (storage batteries) in various industries.

© The power station of "youth" is the name of a power project built with Soviet assistance, near Colibus, in the GDR.

© 30 thousand tonnes of nickel concentrate a year will be produced as from the beginning of 1985 at a beneficiation factory at Punta Gorda, in the Province of Holguin, Cuba. The factory is being built with Soviet assistance.

© The talks between the government delegations of the USSR and Poland have come to an end and a protocol on sales and payments for 1983 has been signed. It is worth mentioning that sales will amount to 7,700 million roubles.